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Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS)

Background

The effort to replace USDA's Central Accounting System (CAS) with the Foundation Financial Information System (FFIS) can be traced to the Chief Financial Officer's (CFO) Act of 1990. This law was enacted to improve the financial management of the Federal Government. This Act established CFO's for Federal agencies, including USDA. Our CFO was responsible for developing the Financial Information System Vision and Strategy (FISVIS) for USDA in 1993. The vision is to create a single integrated financial information system for USDA. The key strategy for achieving that vision is to replace the CAS with commercial off-the-shelf software.

Procurement of Accounting Software

In December 1994, the Department contracted with American Management Systems, Inc. (AMS) to install their Foundation Financial System at NFC. This is a commercial software package as opposed to the Central Accounting System (CAS) which was programmed by USDA's National Finance Center (NFC). USDA calls this new accounting system FFIS, Foundation Financial Information System. Because APHIS has been a user and supporter of NFC systems and FISVIS, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) asked APHIS to be one of the first five agencies to convert to the new accounting system. The other original pilot agencies include Forest Service, Food and Consumer Service, OCFO, and Agricultural Research Service. The implementation date for APHIS was October 1, 2000.

**Procurement of
Accounting
Software
(Continued)**

The remainder of the chapter gives an overview of FFIS for those who are interested in how the new accounting system operates.

What Is FFIS?

FFIS is a fully integrated financial package that is designed to meet stringent budget and funds control needs as well as complex multi-fund accounting and reporting needs.

FFIS integrates a wide range of accounting-related functions to support a comprehensive financial system. In performing these functions, users access a series of document entry screens and related table screens. Documents are the means by which financial transactions are recorded in the system. Tables are sequential lists of either reference codes or processed document data.

**APHIS FFIS
Implementation**

The Department integrated a few of the NFC systems, such as the CAS, Central Accounting Data Inquiry (CADI), Miscellaneous Payment System (MISC), Plan System, and MASC into FFIS. This means that these subsystems have ceased to exist as we know them, but are now a part of FFIS.

The remaining NFC systems operate the same way they have in the past. Consequently, MFSB systems such as PARIS (Personnel Action Request Information System) and PRESTO (Procurement Request Electronic Status and Tracking Operation) (part of DISCUSS) which interface with these NFC feeder systems operating as they did in the past. NFC modified these feeder systems so that the data generated in the feeder systems interfaces into FFIS instead of the NFC's Central Accounting System.

NOTE: Information that was previously published in this chapter regarding FFIS has been incorporated in the appropriate chapters throughout the BAM.

